

PATENT
450100-03167**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present After-Final Amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application and does not require further search.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 15, which are independent, have been amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claim 6, which was objected to due to an informality, is amended herein, obviating the rejection.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite. Claim 6 is amended herein, obviating the rejection.

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III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,097,811 to Micali.

Independent claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*:

"...wherein said lapse information includes a method of obtaining said latest public key certificate information."
(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Pat. No. 6,097,811 to Micali (hereinafter, merely "Micali") relates to managing certificates in a communication system having a certifying authority and a directory where requesting users no longer receive the latest list of revoked certificates. Micali utilizes a tree based authentication technique that allows the directory to convince users whether a given certificate is still valid.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Micali that would teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is believed to be patentable.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, independent claims 5, 6, 9, 10, and 15 are believed to be patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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450100-03167**CONCLUSION**

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Applicants submit that this After-Final Amendment does not require further search and that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of this After-Final Amendment and early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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